— Periodic interaction meetings between the pollution control authorities and NGOs are held at regional level;

— Water testing kits are distributed among various NGOs and science students to undertake water quality assessment;

— Quarterly Newsletter "PARIVESH" is published by the CPCB to provide information about various techniques of pollution abatement to the public.

— A concession is provided on the CPCB publications to those NGOs who are enlisted for pollution control activities.

(e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have provided catalytic fund support for setting up of a coordinated task force to check pollution.

Combating of International Terrorism

4055 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the meeting of the major powers recently to chalk out the measures to combat terrorism in the world;

(b) if so, whether one day meeting of the foreign and Security Ministers of the Group 7 industrialized nations and Russia met in Paris and outlined 25 practical measures that included anti-terrorism resolution and restricted access to the internet to, defeat the terrorist activities;

(c) whether the Indian Government have reviewed the report of these major powers;

(d) if so, the main features thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also considered to take some of the measures from these proposals to combat terrorism in India; and

(f) if so, the measures likely to be undertaken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main features of the statement issued by the G-7 Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, inter alia, includes the determination of the participants to give absolute priority to the fight against terrorism, a thorough review of new trends in terrorism, an invitation to all States to adopt the practical measures outlined following the Sharma-El-Sheikh Summit and a call to adopt a range of internal measures to prevent terrorism such as strengthening international cooperation among all Government agencies, deterrence, prosecution and punishment of terrorists, a call on all States to take strong measures to prevent the movements of terrorists individuals and groups, improved exchanged information on terrorism etc.

(e) and (f). The main features of the statement issued at the conclusion of the G-7 Ministerial Conference on Terrorism in Lyon (Paris) on July 30, 1996 is under examination in the Government of India.

Concessions to Handicapped Persons

4056. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons to whom complimentary passes have been issued, till date at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend travel concession to the handicapped persons in the A/C chair cars and Shatabdi Express trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No complimentary passes are issued to handicapped persons as a category.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Passenger Facilities

4057. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of railway stations in Karnataka where facilities of waiting rooms, restaurants, drinking water, toilets, retiring rooms and sheds on the platforms are not available;

(b) whether these facilities are proposed to be provided on these stations during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Facilities such as drinking water, waiting halls, seating arrangement and latrines are provided at all stations. Amenities such as refreshment rooms, retiring rooms, sheds on platforms etc., are provided based on the importance of the station, the volume of traffic handled at the station and the number of long distance trains stopping, originating or terminating at the station. Therefore, the availability of amenities at all stations will not be uniform. Important stations and stations with a large volume of traffic are provided with all amenities whereas smaller stations, with a relatively meagre volume of traffic, are not provided with the same quantum of amenities.

However, as a continuous process, the Railways conduct surveys to ascertain the adequacy of amenities at every station and the deficiencies, wherever noticed, are made good by including suitable works in the Railways Annual Works Programmes and subject to the availability of funds.

The Ministry of Railways, however, does not maintain this information State-wise.